



IOWA RECOVERY TIMES

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**Safer, Stronger,
Smarter**

www.rio.iowa.gov

IOWA'S DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM BECOMES NATIONAL EXAMPLE

A bill recently signed into law by Governor Chet Culver is the first of its kind in the country to institutionalize a lasting disaster case management system to help meet the needs of individuals and businesses affected by future disasters. House File 2422, which unanimously passed in both the Iowa House and Senate, was signed into law by Governor Culver on March 22 and becomes effective July 1, 2010.

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Gov. Culver signs House File 2422 alongside state legislators and representatives from state agencies and non-profit organizations.

RIO RELEASES APRIL QUARTERLY REPORT

The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) recently released its April Quarterly Report. The report provides an update to the public, legislators and other local, state and federal recovery stakeholders on the progress and challenges that remain in Iowa's recovery from the devastating 2008 floods and tornadoes.

The RIO'S 172-page April Quarterly Report continues to detail the Office's four economic recovery strategies which include obtaining and expediting

disaster recovery funding, identifying and quantifying the impact of the disasters, outlining public outreach and assistance, and obtaining public and expert input. The report also provides updates on 11 goal areas vital to the state's recovery effort: housing; business and workforce; infrastructure investments; individual services and guidance; local economic recovery; smart planning; mitigation planning; floodplain and watershed management; floodplain mapping; quality of life; and emergency

management. Readers will also find information about what disaster-related legislation was passed during the 2010 Legislative Session and how each bill will help Iowa rebuild safer, stronger and smarter.

This is the RIO's fifth Quarterly Report since the Office was formalized last year. To access the April Quarterly Report, as well as previous reports, visit the RIO Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov. The RIO's next report will be released in July.

DISASTER-RELATED INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT HELPS IOWANS AFFECTED BY 2008 DISASTERS

Iowans affected by the floods and tornadoes of 2008 have an opportunity to receive financial assistance via a savings account through one of 20 credit unions with offices in 91 counties in the state.

The program, called the Rebuild Iowa Individual Development Account (IDA), provides matches to savings in accounts set up by individuals or families. For individuals, IDA will match \$2 for every \$1 a person puts into the special savings account. The maximum the program will match for individuals is up to \$2,000 of savings. For families, the IDA will match \$1.50 for every \$1 a family puts into the special savings account. The maximum the program will match for families is up to \$4,000 of

savings, said Mary Beth Foster, executive director of the Iowa Credit Union Foundation, which oversees the program funded through a state dollars.

For example, if an individual saves \$2,000, the match would be \$4,000, and if a family saves \$4,000, the match would be \$6,000. Participants must save for six months to receive the matching grant, and must save a minimum of \$25 per month. All the money saved must go toward the item or services the individuals or families decide to purchase.

Items approved for purchase with money from the IDA program can be used for closing and down-payment costs for first-time home-buyers; to start or expand a small business; pay

for post-secondary education or job training; purchase a vehicle if the saver does not currently own one; and purchase assistance technology for a home or vehicle modification for people with physical challenges, among others.

Participants must live in one of the 85 presidentially-declared disaster counties from 2008 and not make more than 300 percent above poverty level. Foster said anyone interested in the program should sign up no later than December because the program only runs through the end of June 2011, and participants must save for six months.

For more information about the IDA program and which credit unions participate, visit the Credit Union Foundation Web site at www.iowacreditunions.com.

CONFERENCE IN WESTERN IOWA FOCUSES ON DEVELOPING LOCAL COADS



RIO Executive Director Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis emphasizes the important role of COADs in recovery from the 2008 disasters at the April 13 conference.

On April 13, the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC) hosted a conference in Cherokee to support development of local Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD). COADs assist in providing communication, collaboration, coordination and cooperation at the local level following disasters.

Attendees included county emergency managers, representatives from non-profits and faith-based organizations and councils of governments. Attendees learned how development of a COAD could help their community create and maintain effective partnerships to better deliver services to Iowans affected by disasters.

Rebuild Iowa Office Executive Director Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis provided the keynote address, in which he emphasized the valuable role COADs and Long-Term Recovery Committees played in recovery from the 2008 disasters. Other speakers included Bryan Crousore with Church World Services Emergency Response Team, Marvin Schultz with Iowa Department of Human Services, Pastor Michael Stadie with Lutheran Services in Iowa and Nancy Turnbull, FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaison.

The event was co-sponsored by the Rebuild Iowa Office, the Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division and FEMA.

FIRST-EVER REGIONAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETS IN CEDAR RAPIDS

The nation's first-ever Regional Flood Risk Management Team (RFRMT) met at the Clarion Hotel and Convention Center in Cedar Rapids on April 8 to discuss the unusually high spring river levels resulting from one of the wettest falls and winters in the Upper Mississippi River basin's history.

The RFRMT is historic both in purpose and composition with five states participating: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin. Other members include senior leaders from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, National Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and National Weather Service.

The RFRMT's overall purpose is to assist federal, tribal, state and local governmental partners to coordinate, communicate and collaborate on flood risk management

initiatives within the Upper Mississippi River basin.

The RFRMT is working on ideas to integrate pre-flood mitigation with a long-term strategy to plan and implement pre- and post-flood emergency actions to reduce regional flood risks this coming spring and in the future.

The RFRMT framework ensures that important disaster planning and dialog occurs *before* a flood event. The team's prime goal is to minimize risk to life, property and agriculture, while also protecting natural resources in a reasonable and cost-effective manner. Additional RFRMT goals include implementing flood risk and watershed management programs and activities that complement existing mitigation activities.

CASE MANAGEMENT (continued from page 1)

While the framework is still in the planning stage, the law directs the Rebuild Iowa Office to work with the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) and nonprofit, voluntary and faith-based organizations active in disaster recovery and response in coordination with the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, to establish a statewide system of disaster case management. This system could then be activated after either a Governor's proclamation or Presidential declaration of disaster.

The statewide system will be coordinated by DHS through committees identified by each local emergency management commission's emergency plan. These local committees will assist disaster-affected individuals and businesses in navigating recovery programs and developing individual recovery plans. In areas affected

by the 2008 disasters, those committees will typically be existing Long-Term Recovery Committees (LTRCs).

The law requires DHS to adopt rules that include disaster case management standards and policies, reporting requirements, eligibility criteria, coordinating mechanisms, development of interagency agreements for those agencies to provide disaster case management services, and coordination of all available services for individuals from multiple agencies.

The law also establishes a task force to recommend steps in establishing a disaster recovery case management system for businesses. Recommendations from the task force must be submitted to the Governor and Iowa General Assembly by Nov. 15, 2010.

For monthly funding updates on Iowa's 2008 disaster recovery, visit the RIO Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov and click on the "Disaster Funds for Iowa" button.

The Rebuild Iowa Office



The Rebuild Iowa Office is tasked with ensuring that the state rebuilds safer, stronger and smarter than before the 2008 disasters. The RIO is supported by a professional staff made up of existing state employees and hired full-time staff to allow it to achieve its mission, vision, goals and objectives. Throughout its initiatives, the RIO is committed to a recovery and rebuilding process that is fair and equitable to everyone.

www.rio.iowa.gov

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“IOWA MORTGAGE HELP” A RESOURCE FOR DISASTER-AFFECTED HOMEOWNERS

Faced with the financial difficulties from both Iowa’s historic storms, tornadoes and floods of 2008 and the global economic downturn, some homeowners may find themselves in a difficult position. Iowa Mortgage Help would like to remind Iowans that their services are available to assist Iowans in finding solutions to their situation.

Iowa Mortgage Help is Iowa’s state-sponsored safe and free mortgage counseling resource and offers trained, respectful, nonjudgmental counselors at Iowa Mediation Services (IMS). Callers should be prepared to provide counselors with an honest explanation of their situation.

Counselors may refer callers to a local counseling agency that can help them with issues such as personal finances and budgeting so mortgages can be paid in full

and on time.

For more serious situations, the counselor may suggest that the caller continue to work with IMS, which provides more complete services to homeowners. IMS will act as a neutral third party, and will work with the caller and his or her lender to find a long-term solution to the situation. IMS may also work directly with the loan servicer.

Individual homeowners and their challenges can vary. The solution that is appropriate for one homeowner may not be the best solution for another. The goal of the Iowa Mortgage Help initiative is to provide individualized assistance to each person who seeks it.

Iowans who fear they may not be able to make their mortgage payment are encouraged to contact Iowa Mortgage Help at 877-622-4866 or www.iowamortgagehelp.com.

The Rebuild Iowa Office will be presenting in the following communities this spring:

April 19: Cedar Falls Lions Club
April 21: Wapello Kiwanis Club
April 26: Sioux City Rotary Club
April 29: Davenport Kiwanis Club
May 11: Oskaloosa Rotary Club
May 25: Anamosa Rotary Club

Clip & Save...

Federal Agencies

General FEMA Information	800.621.FEMA (3362)
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.462.7585
FEMA Fraud Detection	800.323.8603
National Flood Insurance Program	800.427.4661
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.427.5593
Social Security Administration	800.772.1213
U.S. Small Business Administration	800.659.2955
Internal Revenue Service	800.829.1040
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.829.4059
Tax-Related Disaster Relief	866.562.5227
Housing & Urban Development Hotline	800.669.9777
Department of Veterans Affairs	800.827.0648

Iowa Contacts

For up-to-date disaster and recovery information visit the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

If you have questions about consumer fraud, contact Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division
888.777.4590 or 515.281.5926

To volunteer or make donations, contact:
Iowa Concern Hotline 800.447.1985

Disaster Unemployment Information 800.JOB.IOWA

Iowa Mortgage Help 877.622.4866 or
www.iowaMortgageHelp.com

Ticket to Hope crisis counseling
(call the Iowa Concern Hotline) 800.447.1985

Iowa Other Needs Assistance 800.659.2955

Other Needs Assistance 866.434.4692